

are private records of to whom we write checks, from whom we receive checks. What is in our savings account is a private matter, and we ought to have the right to advise our banks not to share it with anyone.

To that end, Madam Speaker, I will shortly be introducing the Banking Privacy Act, which will give Americans the right to simply keep their records private, keep their private personal lives to themselves, to give Americans what they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CONTINUING OUR FIGHT AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Madam Speaker, when I look at my young nephews, I see the innocence and joy that only childhood can bring. This is the time of their lives that should be treasured and preserved. It saddens me to know that so many children are robbed of this innocence, or even worse, lose their lives at the hands of abuse.

Even while our overall crime statistics have declined dramatically, child abuse continues to rise. According to the Child Welfare League of America, five children and infants die each day from abuse and neglect. This is five children too many.

Last year I sponsored the Volunteers For Children Act, a bill that was signed into law by President Clinton. Volunteers For Children will help to protect children in after-school activities from being in the care of people with dangerous criminal records.

This is an important step, but it is not enough. We must attack child abuse at every opportunity, by investigating reported abuse thoroughly, by ensuring that children are not returned to abusive environments that they have been taken out of, and penalties for convicted abusers need to become much tougher. Furthermore, we must ensure that children have safe places to go whenever they are in danger.

Madam Speaker, as my colleagues all probably know, April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and today has been designated Children's Memorial Day, a day to remember children who have been killed and to resolve anew to stop violence against children. I would hope that the spirit of this day and this month will carry on, and that we can increase our efforts to prevent these terrible and violent acts against innocent and defenseless young people.

WHAT AMERICANS CAN DO IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HATRED AND VIOLENCE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, children are our future, and as our prayers remain with the families in Littleton, Colorado, in the shadow of the conflict in Kosovo, it is important that we acknowledge that we can do something. Yes, we can offer our prayers. We can commend those young people who were brave and courageous and helped their fellow students. We can give our most heartfelt affection and love to those who have lost their loved ones.

But we can do other things. I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), as we just passed out of the Subcommittee on Crime H.R. 1501, which would include intervention on behalf of those children at risk who need mental health services, who are substance abusers, and who, in fact, can be helped.

We need to stop the proliferation of guns. We need to find out why the Internet allows us to have instructions to build bombs, and yes, we must teach our children not to hate. I do not think we can stand by idly and say we do not know what to do, we cannot do anything. We can lift our voices in prayer, but at the same time, we can fight against hatred, we can fight against the misuse of the Internet and guns, and certainly we can help our children who are disturbed and need mental health services.

WORKING TOGETHER TO ACCOMPLISH GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

(Mr. CANNON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I rise today on Earth Day to introduce legislation that will clean up a significant environmental problem in southern Utah: the Atlas uranium mill tailings. This legislation will begin the process of removing 10 million tons of low-level radioactive contaminants from the banks of the Colorado River.

These wastes sit just outside of Moab, Utah at the gates of the breathtaking Arches National Park where hundreds of thousands of people visit each year.

The Colorado River provides the sole source of drinking water for tens of millions of people in Arizona, Nevada and California. These radioactive wastes threaten that water supply.

Currently the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has responsibility for cleanup. My legislation will transfer jurisdiction from the NRC to the Department of Energy, where remediation and relocation can begin so as to avoid any further health risks and environmental degradation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Today on Earth Day, let us put aside our ideological differences

and commit together to accomplish good environmental policy.

PUBLIC PAYS FOR BAD GOVERNMENT POLICY

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Madam Speaker, the Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless in my home State of Georgia provides funds for housing and other services for the homeless in the Atlanta metropolitan area. But an amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARR) to H.R. 1073 would delay funding to the Task Force and set a bad precedent in the distribution of funds for homeless services in the metropolitan area.

This amendment creates an administrative carve-out that supersedes current policy. In other words, this amendment is aimed at micromanaging HUD. And why would anyone want to do this? Because the Cobb Family Resources, an affordable apartment community in Cobb County, is run by the wife of the representative who introduced the amendment and who was able to get it passed out of the subcommittee.

Madam Speaker, it appears that the amendment is trying to give preferential treatment at the expense of the needy in our communities. That is what I call bad policy and bald-faced personal service at the public's expense.

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But then, what would anyone expect from anyone who supports the Council of Conservative Citizens, a modern day Ku Klux Klan?

CONGRESS CAN GIVE OUR TROOPS AND THE DEFENSE BUDGET THE PRIORITY THEY DESERVE

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, we are beginning to see evidence of military shortages everywhere. At the same time, our military is dangerously overstretched. We have fewer and fewer resources and more and more missions, many of them of dubious value and wisdom.

Less than a month into a small operation, the President is already calling up 30,000 reservists. The U.S.S. *Enterprise* went to sea short of 400 personnel. Today there are 265,000 American troops in 135 countries. Our troops are not being taken care of properly.

It is tragic that it has taken the war in Kosovo to expose the total mismatch between resources and missions in the U.S. military: world policeman, global social worker, all the while cutting back dramatically and drastically